

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 8, 10 and 12-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,549,937, which issued to Enokida et al.

Applicant respectfully submits that the Enokida patent cited by the Examiner as anticipating the instant invention, does not contain all of the material elements recited in Applicant's claims. With particular attention to column 2, lines 47-56, and FIG. 3, Enokida teaches conventional wire anodes 34 and 35 attached to lead-in wires 31 and 32. Applicant submits that such wire anodes are generally mounted substantially on a plane with the filament 33. This is supported by the fact that each wire anode 34, 35 includes a bend in order that the free end of each wire anode extends upward towards the filament. Such a bend adds cost and would not be necessary if the wire anodes were to be arranged in the region between the filament and the end of the tube 30 as suggested by the Examiner. In view of the above, Applicant submits that the rejection is deemed improper since Enokida does not satisfy the essential requirement for a proper rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Applicant's Claims 2-6, 8, 10 and 12-13 are dependent on independent Claim 1, and therefore include all recitations thereof. Moreover, Applicant's dependent claims include additional limitations that, when combined with the recitations in Claim 1, render these Claims further distinct and non-obvious over the cited reference. Therefore, Claims 2-6, 8, 10 and 12-13 are likewise deemed allowable.

Claims 7 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Enokida et al in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,905,339, which issued to Chow et al.

Claims 7 and 9 are dependent on independent Claim 1 and thus depend on subject matter deemed patentable. Moreover, with particular attention to Claim 9, Enokida (or Chow) fails to teach or suggest further electrode extending from the power supply line to which it is electrically connected for 40 to 60% of the distance between the two power supply lines in the direction of other power supply line. Applicant respectfully submits that after a full reading, nothing in Enokida supports the Examiner's contention that "you would want the further electrodes to extend close enough to the opposite supply lead to create an arc." One skilled in the art to which the invention applies would understand

that the arc in Enokida's lamp is created between the filaments 7 (only one is shown) which are located at each end of the lamp envelope. Allowance of Claims 7 and 9 is also urged.

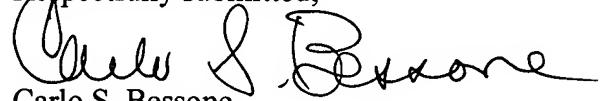
Claim 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Enokida et al in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,549,937, which issued to Mastuno et al.

Mastuno relates to a single-ended, low-pressure discharge lamp which has a small distance between its cathode and its anode (main electrodes) and which operates without any substantial anode fall voltage. In order for the lamp to operate in the zone of negative glow, the cathode and anode are set at a short distance (e.g., 2mm or 4 mm). The anode and cathodes, being the main electrodes, are electrically independent of each other. In Enokida, wire anodes 34 and 35 are attached to lead-in wires 31 and 32. A similar structure is located at the other end of the lamp envelope such that a discharge develops between the filaments.

Applicant respectfully submits that since the structure and operation of Mastuno's negative glow discharge lamp is significantly different from those of Enokida's discharge lamp, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to provide spacing of the electrodes of Enokida in view of the teachings of Mastuno. Therefore, Claim 11 is fully patentable and allowance thereof is respectfully urged.

The Application with Claims 1-13 is deemed in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully urged. Should the Examiner believe that minor differences exist which, if overcome, would pass the Application to allowance and that said differences can be discussed in a phone conversation, the Examiner is respectfully requested to phone the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,


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